necessary budget provision to allot foodgrains at the BPL rates to the increased BPL households identified in the State.

For allocation of foodgrains under the TPDS, the BPL households are estimated on the basis of the poverty estimate of the Planning Commission for 1993-94 and population projection of the Registrar General as on 01.03.2000. This policy is followed uniformly for all the States/UTs. As per this formula the total BPL (including AAY) households estimated for the State of Kerala is 15.54 lakhs and allocation of foodgrains is being made to State of Kerala accordingly. Therefore, the reuqest of the State Government for additional allocation to kerala as per the BPL households identified by the State Government has not been accepted.

BPL familes under TPDS

2451. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than two crore BPL families are not covered under the Targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that a large number of bogus BPL ration cards are in existence;

(d) if so, the number of such ration cards in Delhi and the quantum of foodgrains drawn against those ration cards; and

(e) the measures taken to cancel all such ration cards?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As against the 6.52 crore PBL households as on 01-03-2000 as per the poverty estimates of Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 being followed for allocation of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), about 9.73 crore BPL families have been identified and issued distinctive ration cards by the State Governments in the country. The States/UTs of Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Chandigarh, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Lakshadweep are yet to complete identification of BPL families.

(c) The TPDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. The responsibility for identification of BPL families and issue them ration cards lies with the State Governments. The system is operated through a vast network of about 4.83 lakh fair price shops scattered all over the country. In such a vast network possibilities of any irregularities including bogus ration cards cannot be ruled out. As per recent report of the Programme Evaluation Organisation of Planning Commission 16.67% of the foodgrains leakages are through Ghost Cards.

(d) and (e) The PEO report has not covered the Union Territory of Delhi. However with a view to cancel the bogus ration cards or the bogus units in the ration cards the PDS (Control) Order 2001 provides for review of lists of BPL and Antyodaya families every year to include the eligible families and exclude ineligible ones.

Revising procurement price of rice

2452. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Central Government to revise the procurement price of rice by increasing Rs. 16.50 to Rs. 17.00 per quintal taking into account the increase in the minimum support price of paddy by Rs. 10 per quintal over last year's MSP;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested for permitting a payment of transport charges upto 8 kms. for delivery of levy rice to the Food Corporation of India as the same was permitted prior to September, 2002;

(d) if so,the action taken in this regard; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested the Government of India to consider the requests of the rice millers to increase the price of levy rice in proportion with the increase in MSP during the last two years.